

**WILMINGTON SHOOTING REPORT:
A FIVE-YEAR ANALYSIS
1996 – 2000
WORKING PAPER**



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INTRODUCTION

Since 1996, the Delaware Criminal Justice Council has worked with the Wilmington Police Department in analysis of the number of shootings in the City. Recently the Delaware Criminal Justice Council released a study of the shootings in Wilmington during the 1999 – 2000 period.¹ The 1999 – 2000 report reviewed the shootings in Wilmington by looking at various demographics including age, race, sex, criminal history, victim-offender relationships, day and time of shootings and motivations for the shootings.

In an effort to continue to refine our analysis and understanding of the shootings in Wilmington, information was secured from the Wilmington Police Department on all of the shootings in Wilmington between 1996 and 2000. This report is the result of analysis of those shootings. The following variables were used for completion of this report:

1. Year of shooting;
2. Victim / shooting criminal history;
3. Victim / shooter sex;
4. Victim / shooter race;
5. Victim / shooter age;
6. Motive for shooting;
7. Status of shooting incident;
8. Crime charged as result of shooting incident;
9. Relationship between victim and shooter;
10. Day and time of shooting;
11. Type of weapon used; and
12. Area of the body shot.

¹ Garrison, A. (2001). **Wilmington Shooting Report 1999 – 2000 Working Paper: A Cumulative Study of 1999 and 2000 shooting incidents**. Delaware Criminal Justice Council: Wilmington, Delaware.

METHODOLOGY

The data used for this report was secured from the Wilmington Police Department and Delaware Justice Information System (DELJIS) criminal history searches on victims and suspects. The information on the shootings was secured from an information sheet on each shooting from the Wilmington Police Department. The information sheet included the name, age, sex, race and DOB of the victim, the location of the shooting incident, the crime that resulted from the shooting, the date of the shooting, the day of the shooting (this data was not available for 1997), and the suspected motive for the shooting the time of the shooting. The information sheet also lists, if known, the name, age, race, DOB and sex of the suspect.

This report is the result of taking shooting incident sheets for all of the shootings between 1996 and 2000 and placing them in a database for analysis. Criminal history information was secured through DELJIS searches. The nature of the data for this report requires some limitations on the analysis and conclusions on the shootings in Wilmington and the nature of those shootings. The data in the information sheets are secured from field police reports soon after the incident. The sheets do not reflect the progress of investigation into a particular shooting incident. Additionally, the motive may not reflect the actual motive of the shooting. A case that involves drug activity may be classified as robbery because the initial investigation does not reveal that the person was robbed of his/her drug money and/or drugs. Thus the case is actually drug related and not a regular robbery. Another weakness of the data is simply the high rate of unknown suspects and data on those suspects. More than half (69.2%) of the cases did not have the suspect identified. The only information on the suspect that was known in the majority of cases was race and sex.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Between 1996 and 2000 the City of Wilmington had 403 shootings. Analysis of the shooting victims reveals the following:

- ❑ Males accounted for 89.6% of the shooting victims.
- ❑ Black males accounted for 79.7% of the shooting victims.
- ❑ Seventy one percent (71.2%) of the victims had a criminal history.
- ❑ Black males accounted for 59.5% of the victims with criminal histories.
- ❑ Black males accounted for 19.9% of the victims without criminal histories.
- ❑ The majority of victims (77.9%) were between the age of 14 and 30 years old.
- ❑ Although the majority of victims had prior arrests, only 29.8% of the victims were classified as career criminal candidates.
- ❑ The majority of victims did not have prior drug (52.6%) or weapons (68.7%) arrests.
- ❑ The majority of victims (96.8%) were shot with handguns.

Analysis of the shooting suspects reveals the following:

- ❑ The ages of the suspects for the majority of cases (69.2%) are unknown.
- ❑ The majority (58.5%) of cases are open and a third of cases (34.9%) resulted in arrests.
- ❑ Of the 124 cases in which the age of shootings suspects is available,
 - Young adults between 18 and 21 years old conducted 51.6% of the shootings.
 - Young adults between 14 and 25 years old conducted 71.8% of the shootings.
- ❑ The majority (83.1%) of the total known suspects by race (N=335) were black males.
- ❑ Of the 124 cases in which arrest history data on suspects is available,
 - 25.8% had no felony arrests,
 - 27.4% had no misdemeanor arrests,
 - 34.7% had no drug arrests,

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- 35.5% had no weapons arrests,
- 62.1% had three or more felony arrest,
- 62.1% had three or more misdemeanors arrests,
- 55.6% had more than one drug arrest, and
- 54.8% had more than one weapons arrest.

Analysis of the shootings revealed the followings:

- Eleven percent the shootings ended with fatalities.
- The majority of shootings (55.7%) occurred on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.
- The majority of shootings (63.2%) occurred between 7p.m. and 2 a.m.
- The single hour with the most shootings was between 11p.m. and 12 a.m.
- More than half of the shootings (53%) occurred during the fall and winter (September – March) months, the two coldest periods of the year.
- Regardless of the weather, the highest numbers of shootings occur after dusk.
- Drug related shootings (N=94) accounted for the single highest known motivation for the shootings (24%) followed by robbery I (20%).
- Of the 124 shootings in which the criminal history of the suspects are known,
 - Career criminal candidates did not dominate the shootings.
 - 46% of the shootings were conducted by Career Criminal Candidates (CCC).
 - Shooting suspects with one or more felony arrest were responsible for the majority (75%) of Assault I cases and the majority (68%) of Murder I cases.
 - Shooting suspects with one or more misdemeanor arrest accounted for the majority (60%) of the Assault I cases and the majority (72%) of Murder I cases.

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In regard to victim / suspect relationships:

- ❑ Eighty-seven percent (87.8%) of the shootings involved black victims and ninety-two (92.5%) percent of the known suspects were black.
- ❑ Of the 124 shootings in which the classification of the suspect is known,
 - Sixty-one (46%) of the cases involved career criminal candidates as suspects and 29.8% of the victims were career criminal candidates.
 - Almost twenty-seven (26.9%) percent of the CCC victims were between 18 and 21 years old and 27.5% of the CCC victims were between the age of 22 and 25 years old.
 - More than half (54.3%) of the CCC suspects were between 18 and 21 years old and 21% of the CCC suspects were between 22 and 25 years old.
 - The majority of CCC victims (70%) and suspects (87.7%) were between 14 and 25 years old.
 - The majority (58.9%) of the shootings were conducted by young adults between the age of 18 and 25 years old.
 - Of the identified motives (N=105) for shootings attributed to suspects, the top three were drug related (22.8%) and argument (20%), and robbery (15.2%).
- ❑ Of the identified motives (N= 66) for shootings attributed to victims, the top three were drug related (35.3%), robbery (30.4%) and argument (11%).
- ❑ The victim of the shootings tended to be non-CCC (N=283) rather than a CCC (N=120).
- ❑ Non-career criminal candidates are likely to shoot non-criminal candidates and career criminal candidates are likely to shoot non-criminal candidates.

GENERAL SHOOTING STATISTICS

**Table One: Shootings in the City of Wilmington
1996 – 2000**

Year	Number
1996	107
1997	107
1998	73
1999	56
2000	60
Total	403

In 1996 the City of Wilmington had a total of 107 shootings, which was a record number of shootings at that time. The City had an equally high number of shootings in 1997. Since 1997 the number of shootings has decreased to a low of 56 in 1999. In

1998 there was a 32% reduction in shootings from 1996, a 48% reduction in shootings in 1999 and a 44% decrease in shootings in 2000 compared to 1996. Between 1997 and 1999, there was a steady decrease in the number of shootings in Wilmington. There was a 7% increase in the number of shootings between 1999 and 2000.

Table Two: Case status for shooting incidents

Case Status	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Arrest	47	32	24	22	16	141
Open	57	64	46	32	37	236
Pending	0	0	0	0	1	1
Suspended	0	0	0	2	1	3
Warrant	3	6	3	0	5	17
Closed	0	5	0	0	0	5
Total	107	107	73	56	60	403

Tables Two and Three show the case status breakdown of the shootings for each year and the clearance rate for those shootings. A case is considered “cleared” is an arrest is made or a warrant is issued for an arrest. Arrest and warrant are considered indicators that the shooting incident has been solved in that the police know who committed the shooting. The clearance rate for shootings for the 1996 – 2000 period was 39.2%.

Table Three: Clearance Rates for Shootings 1996 - 2000

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
	46.7%	35.5%	36.9%	39.2%	35%

VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

Table Four shows the number of victims who had criminal histories and the percentage of victims who had criminal histories by each year. In 1996, 61.7% of the shooting victims had prior criminal histories and 38.3% did not.

Table Four: Victim Criminal History by Year					
Number / Percentage of Victims with a criminal History by year					
	Yes	%	No	%	Total
1996	66	61.7	41	38.3	107
1997	77	72.0	30	28.0	107
1998	60	82.2	13	17.8	73
1999	42	75.0	14	25.0	56
2000	42	70.0	18	30.0	60
Total	287		116		403

The percentage of shooting victims who did not have criminal histories decreased between 1996 and 1998 and then began to increase in 1999 and 2000.

In 1996, only 38.3% of the victims had criminal histories, in 1997 the percentage decreased to 28 percent and the decrease continued in 1998 to 17.8%. Beginning in 1999, the trend changed and the percentage of victims without criminal histories began to increase. This change corresponded with the increase in the number of shootings between 1999 and 2000.

Table Five shows the number of victims of shootings by sex and year. Males continued to be the majority of shooting victims.

The number of male shooting victims showed a steady decrease from 1996 through 1999, then an increase in 2000.

Table Five: Number of victims by sex / percentage by Year			
	Victims Sex		Total
	Male	Female	
1996	98	9	107
Percentage	91.6%	8.4%	100.0
1997	91	16	107
Percentage	85.0%	15.0%	100.0
1998	69	4	73
Percentage	94.5%	5.5%	100.0
1999	48	8	56
Percentage	85.7%	14.3%	100.0
2000	55	5	60
Percentage	91.7	8.3	100.0
Total	361	42	403
Total Percentage	89.6%	10.4%	100.0

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Table Six: Number of Victims by race / percentage by year

Victim's Race	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Black male	87	81.3	81	75.7	62	84.9	42	75.0	49	81.7	321	79.7
Black female	8	7.5	14	13.1	1	1.4	7	12.5	3	5.0	33	8.2
Hispanic male	6	5.6	6	5.6	6	8.2	5	8.9	4	6.7	27	6.7
White male	3	2.8	4	3.7	1	1.4	1	1.8	1	1.7	10	2.5
White female	0	0.0	2	1.9	3	4.1	1	1.8	1	1.7	7	1.7
Unknown female	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.7	1	.2
Unknown male	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.7	1	.2
Asian female	1	.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	.2
Asian male	2	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	.5
Total	107	100.0	107	100.0	73	100.0	56	100.0	60	100.0	403	100.0

Table Six shows the number of shooting victims by race and the percentage of each racial group by year. Black males accounted for 81.3% of the total shooting victims in 1996.

The decrease in the number of male victims between 1996 and 1999 was mirrored by the decrease in the number of black males who were victims of shootings during the same period.

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Table Seven: Number of Victims by age / percentage by year

Victim's age	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
< 14 years old	0	0.0	3	2.8	1	1.4	1	1.8	0	0.0	5	1.2
14 – 17 years old	20	18.7	17	15.9	7	9.6	6	10.7	5	8.3	55	13.6
18 – 21 years old	27	25.2	23	21.5	26	35.6	16	28.6	19	31.7	111	27.5
22 – 25 years old	22	20.6	29	27.1	19	26.0	13	23.2	13	21.7	96	23.8
26 – 30 years old	9	8.4	18	16.8	8	11.0	8	14.3	9	15.0	52	12.9
31 – 35 years old	6	5.6	7	6.5	6	8.2	2	3.6	5	8.3	26	6.5
36 – 40 years old	7	6.5	3	2.8	3	4.1	5	8.9	4	6.7	22	5.5
41 – 45 years old	3	2.8	1	.9	2	2.7	3	5.4	1	1.7	10	2.5
45 – 50 years old	4	3.7	3	2.8	0	0.0	1	1.8	3	5.0	11	2.7
50 and over	2	1.9	3	2.8	1	1.4	1	1.8	1	1.7	8	2.0
Data N/A	7	6.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	7	1.7
Total	107	100.0	107	100.0	73	100.0	56	100.0	60	100.0	403	100.0

The shootings in Wilmington followed conventional criminal justice crime trends in that the number of shooting victims steadily increased from age 14 and peaked at age 25.

Incidents began a steady decrease from age 26 years old. *The majority (65%) of victims of shootings were between 14 and 25 years old.*

Table Eight: Victim Career Criminal Candidate Designation

Number / Percentage of Victims with career criminal candidate designation by year					
	Yes	%	No	%	Total
1996	27	25.2	80	74.8	107
1997	39	36.4	68	63.6	107
1998	28	38.4	45	61.6	73
1999	8	14.3	48	85.7	56
2000	18	30.0	42	70.0	60
Total	120	29.8	283	70.2	403

The majority of victims were not serious career criminals.

The designation for career criminal candidate signifies multiple arrests that include weapons, felony, misdemeanor, and drug charges. Only about a third of

the shooting victims had serious criminal histories. The same pattern of the number of male victims decreasing between 1996 and 1999 was found when looking at the number of career criminal candidates within the same period. As with numbers of male victims, the number of career criminal candidates increased in 2000.

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Table Nine: Victim Felony Arrests by number and percentage by year

Year	1-2 arrests		3 or more arrests		None		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1996	14	13.1	41	38.3	52	48.6	107	100.0
1997	10	9.3	48	44.9	49	45.8	107	100.0
1998	8	11.0	40	54.8	25	34.2	73	100.0
1999	17	30.4	16	28.6	23	41.1	56	100.0
2000	5	8.3	35	58.3	20	33.3	60	100.0
Total	54	13.4	180	44.7	169	41.9	403	100.0

Over the past five years the number of victims who had no prior felony has been decreasing.

In all five years, the majority of victims had prior felony arrests.

Victims with no prior misdemeanor arrests also showed a decrease, but only between 1996 and 1999.

Table Ten: Victim Misdemeanor Arrests by number and percentage by year

Year	1-2 arrests		3 or more arrests		None		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1996	11	10.3	54	50.5	42	39.3	107	100.0
1997	10	9.3	67	62.6	30	28.0	107	100.0
1998	8	11.0	49	67.1	16	21.9	73	100.0
1999	12	21.4	31	55.4	13	23.2	56	100.0
2000	3	5.0	39	65.0	18	30.0	60	100.0
Total	44	10.9	240	59.6	119	29.5	403	100.0

Table Eleven: Victim Drug Arrests by number and percentage by year

Year	One		More than one		None		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1996	7	6.5	38	35.5	62	57.9	107	100.0
1997	3	2.8	45	42.1	59	55.1	107	100.0
1998	8	11.0	37	50.7	28	38.4	73	100.0
1999	5	8.9	18	32.1	33	58.9	56	100.0
2000	4	6.7	26	43.3	30	50.0	60	100.0
Total	27	6.7	164	40.7	212	52.6	403	100.00

The shootings are involving more people without prior drug, and weapon arrest histories than those with prior drug and

Table Twelve: Victim Weapons Arrests by number and percentage by year

Year	One		More than one		None		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1996	8	7.5	17	15.9	82	76.6	107	100.0
1997	8	7.5	26	24.3	73	68.2	107	100.0
1998	8	11.0	21	28.8	44	60.3	73	100.0
1999	7	12.5	6	10.7	43	76.8	56	100.0
2000	4	6.7	21	35.0	35	58.3	60	100.0
Total	35	8.7	91	22.6	277	68.7	403	100.00

SUSPECT DEMOGRAPHICS

The available data on shooting suspects is not as complete as data on victims. Data on shooting incidents is less than half complete on suspects; only 30.8% of the case information sheets have complete data on suspects. This low statistics is not unexpected due to the fact that most shootings involve incidents in which the victim and suspect do not know each other and the data on suspects is based on the known information on the shooters at the time of the initial investigation. The data in this section reflects suspect information known at the time of the initial investigation.

Table Thirteen: Number of Suspects by age / percentage by year

Suspect's age	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
< 14 years old	0	0.0	1	2.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	.8
14 – 17 years old	3	21.4	4	10.0	5	17.9	2	8.7	2	10.5	16	12.9
18 – 21 years old	5	35.7	11	27.5	10	35.7	13	56.5	9	47.4	48	38.7
22 – 25 years old	6	42.9	8	20.0	4	14.3	6	26.1	1	5.3	25	20.2
26 – 30 years old	0	0.0	3	7.5	2	7.1	1	4.3	4	21.1	10	8.1
31 – 35 years old	0	0.0	5	12.5	2	7.1	0	0.0	1	5.3	8	6.5
36 – 40 years old	0	0.0	7	17.5	1	3.6	0	0.0	2	10.5	10	8.1
46 – 50 years old	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	3.6	1	4.3	0	0.0	2	1.6
50 and over	0	0.0	1	2.5	3	10.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	3.2
Total	14	100.0	40	100.0	28	100.0	23	100.0	19	100.0	124	100.0

Data on shooting suspects, like data on victims, followed conventional crime trends in that the shootings began to increase during the teen years through early adulthood. In all five years the number of shooting incidents and age of the perpetrators of the shootings began to decrease after age 21.

While the majority of shooter demographic information was unknown, information on the race and sex of the perpetrators was more available. More than eighty percent (83.1%) of the case information sheets had the race and sex of the perpetrators.

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Table Fourteen: Number of Known Suspect's by race / percentage by year

Suspect's Race	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Black male	84	93.3	79	86.8	58	90.6	43	91.5	40	93.0	304	90.7
Black female	1	1.1	2	2.2	1	1.6	1	2.1	1	2.3	6	1.8
Hispanic male	3	3.3	5	5.5	4	6.3	1	2.1	1	2.3	14	4.2
White male	2	2.2	5	5.5	1	1.6	2	4.3	1	2.3	11	3.3
Total	90	100.0	91	100.0	64	100.0	47	100.0	43	100.0	335	100.0

As with the number of victims viewed by race, Black males accounted for the majority of shooting perpetrators between 1996 and 2000.

**Table Fifteen: Suspect Criminal History by Year
Number / Percentage of Suspects with a criminal
History by year**

	Yes	%	No	%	Total
1996	10	71.4	4	28.6	14
1997	28	70.0	12	30.0	40
1998	21	75.0	7	25.0	28
1999	22	95.7	1	4.3	23
2000	16	84.2	3	15.8	19
Total	97	78.2	27	21.8	124

The majority of shooters for each year had criminal histories.

The majority of shooting suspects for each year had more than one arrest for a felony offense.

**Table Sixteen: Suspect Felony Arrests by number and
percentage by year**

Year	1-2 arrests		3 or more arrests		None		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1996	1	7.1	9	64.3	4	28.6	14	100.0
1997	4	10.0	23	57.5	13	32.5	40	100.0
1998	3	10.7	15	53.6	10	35.7	28	100.0
1999	5	21.7	17	73.9	1	4.3	23	100.0
2000	2	10.5	13	68.4	4	21.1	19	100.0
Total	15	12.1	77	62.1	32	25.8	124	100.0

Between 1997 and 1999, the percentage of shooters for each year showed an increase of shooters who had three or more felony arrests.

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Table Seventeen: Suspect Misdemeanor Arrests by number and percentage by year								
Year	1-2 arrests		3 or more arrests		None		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1996	0	0.0	9	64.3	5	35.7	14	100.0
1997	5	12.5	22	55.0	13	32.5	40	100.0
1998	3	10.7	16	57.1	9	32.1	28	100.0
1999	3	13.0	17	73.9	3	13.0	23	100.0
2000	2	10.5	13	68.4	4	21.1	19	100.0
Total	13	10.5	77	62.1	34	27.4	124	100.0

The majority of shooting suspects for each year had more than one arrest for a misdemeanor offense.

Between 1996 and 1999, the percentage of shooters for each year showed an increase of shooters who had three or more misdemeanor arrests. The 2000 showed a decrease in the percentage of shooting suspects that three or more misdemeanor arrests.

With the exception of 1996 and 1999 the majority of shooting suspects for each year were not career criminal candidates. In 1996, half of the known suspects were career criminal candidates.

Table Eighteen: Suspect Career Criminal Candidate Designation Number / Percentage of Suspects with career criminal candidate designation by year					
	Yes	%	No	%	Total
1996	7	50.0	7	50.0	14
1997	17	42.5	23	57.5	40
1998	12	42.9	16	57.1	28
1999	12	52.2	11	47.8	23
2000	9	47.4	10	52.6	19
Total	57	46.0	67	54.0	124

Table Nineteen: Suspect Drug Arrests by number and percentage by year								
Year	One		More than one		None		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1996	0	0.0	7	50.0	7	50.0	14	100.0
1997	2	5.0	24	60.0	14	35.0	40	100.0
1998	5	17.9	13	46.4	10	35.7	28	100.0
1999	2	8.7	13	56.5	8	34.8	23	100.0
2000	3	15.8	12	63.2	4	21.1	19	100.0
Total	12	9.7	69	55.6	43	34.7	124	100.0

With the exception of 1996, the majority of shooting suspects for each year had more than one drug arrest.

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Table Twenty: Suspects Weapons Arrests by number and percentage by year								
Year	One		More than one		None		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
1996	1	7.1	8	57.1	5	35.7	14	100.0
1997	5	12.5	15	37.5	20	50.0	40	100.0
1998	3	10.7	11	39.3	14	50.0	28	100.0
1999	1	4.3	21	91.3	1	4.3	23	100.0
2000	2	10.5	13	68.4	4	21.1	19	100.0
Total	12	9.7	68	54.8	44	35.5	124	100.0

In 1996, the majority of suspects had more than one weapons arrest. In 1997 and 1998 only half of the suspects had prior weapons arrests. The trend of suspects having more than one weapons arrest resumed in 1999 and 2000.

ANALYSIS OF SHOOTINGS

Table Twenty One: Resulting crimes due to shootings by year / percentage per year by year

Resulting charge	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Assault I	62	57.9	72	67.3	35	47.9	29	51.8	31	51.7	229
Attempted Murder I	17	15.9	18	16.8	19	26.0	10	17.9	12	20.0	76
Assault II	3	2.8	6	5.6	3	4.1	6	10.7	1	1.7	19
Robbery I	7	6.5	0	0.0	6	8.2	1	1.8	4	6.7	18
Reckless Endangering	0	0.0	1	.9	1	1.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Murder I	10	9.3	10	9.3	7	9.6	9	16.1	9	15.0	45
Attempted Robbery I	4	3.7	0	0.0	2	2.7	1	1.8	2	3.3	9
Burglary I	1	.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.7	2
Manslaughter	1	.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1
Attempted Murder II	2	1.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2
Total	107	100.0	107	100.0	73	100.0	56	100.0	60	100.0	403

The majority of shootings (56.8%) over the past five years resulted in assault one charges. Attempted murder one and attempted murder two accounted for almost twenty (19.4%) percent of the charges resulting for shootings over the past five years. Eleven (11.4%) percent of the shootings resulted in fatalities over the past five years.

Table Twenty Two: Area of body shot (by grouping) by year / percentage per year

Area of body shot (by grouping)	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Head, Neck, & Face	0	0.0	11	10.3	10	13.7	13	23.2	8	13.3	42
Chest	0	0.0	4	3.7	13	17.8	14	25.0	9	15.0	40
Abdominal Area	0	0.0	6	5.6	2	2.7	5	8.9	3	5.0	16
Hips, Legs, Groin & Feet	0	0.0	34	31.8	25	34.2	16	28.6	25	41.7	100
Shoulders, Arms & Hands	0	0.0	25	23.4	12	16.4	4	7.1	8	13.3	49
Back	0	0.0	7	6.5	11	15.1	4	7.1	5	8.3	27
Unknown	107	100.0	20	18.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.3	129
Total	107	100	107	100	73	100	56	100	60	100	403

In each year, the majority of shots were to the lower extremities of the body. Twenty (20.3%) percent of the shots, over the past five years, were to the more fatal areas of the body (head, neck, face, and chest).

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Table Twenty Three: Time and day of shooting (1996 – 2000)*								
Time of shooting by hour	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Total
12a.m. & 1a.m.	2	5	2	13	2	4	7	35
1a.m. & 2 a.m.	0	1	7	3	9	6	8	34
2 a.m. & 3 a.m.	3	2	0	0	1	7	5	18
3 a.m. & 4 a.m.	1	2	0	1	0	3	3	11
4 a.m. & 5 a.m.	1	1	0	1	0	4	1	8
5 a.m. & 6 a.m.	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	5
6 a.m. & 7 a.m.	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	3
7 a.m. & 8 a.m.	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
8 a.m. & 9a.m.	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	4
9 a.m. & 10 a.m.	0	1	0	4	1	0	1	7
10 a.m. & 11a.m.	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
11 a.m. & 12p.m.	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	4
12 p.m. & 1p.m.	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	4
1 p.m. & 2 p.m.	0	1	2	1	1	1	2	8
2 p.m. & 3 p.m.	0	0	0	3	1	1	4	9
3 p.m. & 4 p.m.	3	1	1	0	1	2	0	8
4 p.m. & 5 p.m.	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	5
5 p.m. & 6 p.m.	1	1	1	3	1	0	0	7
6 p.m. & 7 p.m.	1	0	0	4	0	0	1	6
7 p.m. & 8 p.m.	4	2	2	3	1	1	3	16
8 p.m. & 9 p.m.	3	2	2	1	3	4	2	17
9 p.m. & 10 p.m.	7	5	3	5	2	6	1	29
10 p.m. & 11p.m.	5	1	2	1	2	6	2	19
11 p.m. & 12 a.m.	3	2	2	9	7	6	8	37
Total	39	28	26	55	38	55	55	296

* Does not include year 1997 because data on 1997 shootings did not include day of shooting.

As shown in Table Twenty Three, over the past five years, the three days in which the majority (55.8%) shootings occurred were on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday (blue high light). Over the past five years shootings begin to increase at 7 p.m., peak at between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. and begin to decrease from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. (dark blue highlight). While the shootings on Thursday do not appear to be connected to other days, the shootings on Saturday and Sunday are related in time. The increase in shootings on Saturday actually begin on Friday at 11 p.m. and they carry over to Saturday morning between 12 a.m. and 4 a.m. The shootings on Sunday morning actually begin on Saturday 9 p.m. and peak on Sunday morning at 2 a.m. The third peak in shootings (first being 12 a.m. to 4 a.m. and the second being 7 p.m. to 12 a.m.) is between 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. (light green highlight).

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Time of shootings (1996 - 2000)

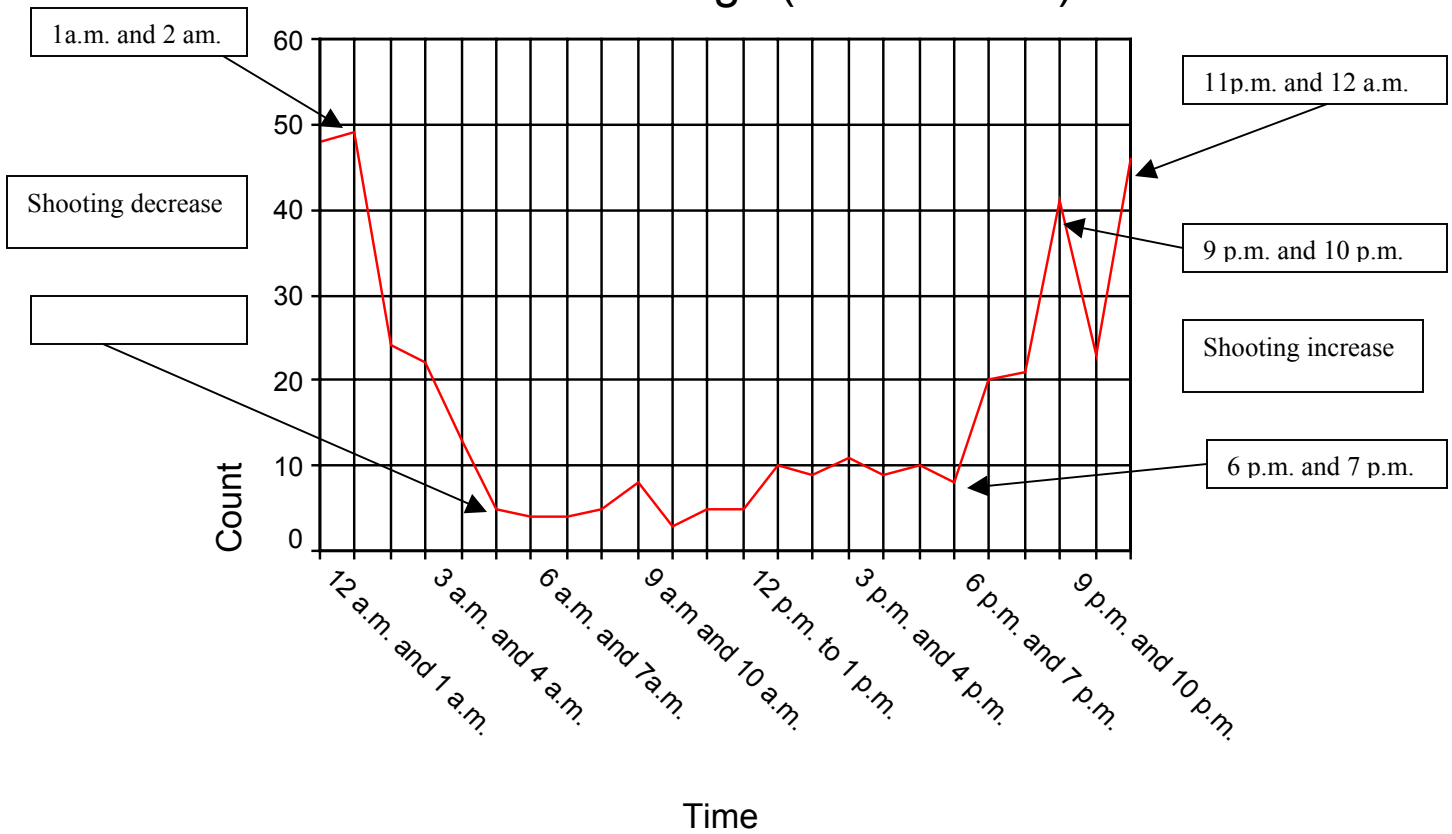


Table Twenty Four: Type of weapon used by year / percentage per year

Type of weapon used	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Handgun	0	0.0	63	58.9	54	74.0	34	60.7	33	55.0	184
Sub-machine gun	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.7	1
Shotgun	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.4	4	7.1	0	0.0	5
Unknown	107	100.0	44	41.1	18	24.7	18	32.1	26	43.3	213
Total	107	100.0	107	100.0	73	100.0	56	100.0		100.0	403

Handguns were single most used weapon on the shootings.

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Table Twenty Five: Motives for shootings by year / percentage per year

Motivation	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000		Total
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Domestic	7	6.5	2	1.9	3	4.1	2	3.6	1	1.7	15
Drug Related	40	37.4	21	19.6	11	15.1	9	16.1	13	21.7	94
Retaliation	0	0.0	10	9.3	2	2.7	2	3.6	6	10.0	20
Accident	2	1.9	4	3.7	2	2.7	2	3.6	1	1.7	11
Robbery I	16	15.0	14	13.1	16	21.9	13	23.2	22	36.7	81
Gang Related	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	1
Argument	0	0.0	2	1.9	11	15.1	6	10.7	10	16.7	29
Crossfire	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	5.4	0	0.0	3
Gambling Related	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	1
Bystander	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8	4	6.7	5
Bystander – Drug Related	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.6	0	0.0	2
Gun Fight	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	1
Can Not be Determined	42	39.3	37	34.6	0	0.0	1	1.8	3	5.0	83
Mental Illness	0	0.0	3	2.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3
Unknown	0	0.0	14	13.1	28	38.4	12	21.4	0	0.0	54
Total	107	100	107	100	73	100	56	100	60	100	403

The motivation of the shootings is based on the assessment of the police at the time of the incident and does not reflect subsequent investigation. Based on the motivation of the shootings at the time of initial police investigation, *there was no distinctive pattern of motivation for shootings over the past five years*. Drug related activity accounted for 24% of the total shootings between 1996 and 2000 with the majority of shootings occurring in 1996. Between 1997 and 1999 there was a steady decrease in the number of shootings motivated by drugs with an increase in 2000.

Table Twenty Six: Charges resulting from Shootings 1996 – 2000

Charge	Number	Percentage
Assault I	229	56.8
Attempted Murder I	76	18.9
Assault II	19	4.7
Robbery I	18	4.5
Reckless Endangerment	2	.5
Murder I	45	11.2
Attempted Robbery I	9	2.2
Burglary I	2	.5
Manslaughter	1	.2
Attempted Murder II	2	.5
Total	403	100.0

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Table Twenty Seven: Crime Charged as result of shooting and Felony Arrest Correlation				
Crime Charged	Suspect with Felony Arrests			Total shootings
	1 – 2	3 or more	None	
Assault I	6	31	13	50
Attempted Murder I	6	20	10	36
Assault II	1	5	2	8
Robbery I	0	1	1	2
Reckless Endangerment	0	1	0	1
Murder I	2	17	6	25
Attempted Murder II	0	2	0	2
Total	15	77	32	124

As shown in Table Twenty-Seven, almost 75% of the shootings that resulted in assault I charges had one or more prior felony arrests. Suspects who had three or more prior felony arrests conducted the majority (68%) of shooting incidents that resulted in death.

Table Twenty Eight: Crime Charged as result of shooting and Misdemeanor Arrest Correlation				
Crime Charged	Suspect with Misdemeanor Arrests			Total shootings
	1 – 2	3 or more	None	
Assault I	6	30	14	50
Attempted Murder I	1	23	12	36
Assault II	3	3	2	8
Robbery I	0	1	1	2
Reckless Endangerment	1	0	0	1
Murder I	2	18	5	25
Attempted Murder II	0	2	0	2
Total	13	77	34	124

As shown in Table Twenty-Eight, suspects with three or more misdemeanor arrests were responsible for the majority (62.1%) of the shooting incidents. The majority (72%) of shootings that resulted in death were conducted by suspects with three or more misdemeanor arrests. The majority (60%) of shootings that resulted in assault I charges were conducted by suspects with three of more misdemeanor arrests.

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Table Twenty Nine: Crime Charged as result of shooting and Drug Arrest Correlation				
Crime Charged	Suspect with Drug Arrests			Total shootings
	One	More than one	None	
Assault I	4	29	17	50
Attempted Murder I	3	19	14	36
Assault II	1	2	5	8
Robbery I	0	1	1	2
Reckless Endangerment	0	1	0	1
Murder I	4	15	6	25
Attempted Murder II	0	2	0	2
Total	12	69	43	124

Table Thirty: Crime Charged as result of shooting and Weapons Arrest Correlation				
Crime Charged	Suspect with Weapons Arrests			Total shootings
	One	More than one	None	
Assault I	3	25	22	50
Attempted Murder I	3	22	11	36
Assault II	1	4	3	8
Robbery I	0	1	1	2
Reckless Endangerment	0	0	1	1
Murder I	5	14	6	25
Attempted Murder II	0	2	0	2
Total	12	68	44	124

As shown in Tables Twenty-Nine and Thirty, suspects without prior arrests for drugs or weapons were responsible for 34.6% and 35.4% of the shootings respectively. Those with more than one arrest for drugs and or weapons conducted the majority of the shootings. More than half (56%) of the shootings that resulted in death were conducted by those with more than one weapons arrest and those with more than one drug arrest (60%).

CCC suspects accounted for 46% (N=57) of the total number of shootings while none CCC suspects accounted for 54% (N=67) of the shootings.

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The plurality of shootings between 1996 and 2000 occurred between June and August. As shown in Tables Thirty One and Thirty Two, almost half of the shootings (47%) occurred during the spring / summer months.

Table Thirty One: Shootings during seasons of the year		
Season	Number	Percentage
Winter	110	27.3
Spring	67	16.6
Summer	123	30.5
Fall	103	25.5
Total	403	100.0

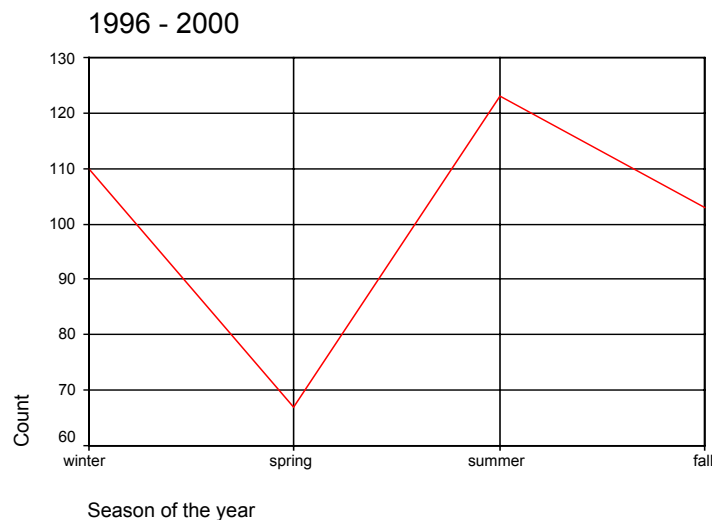


Table Thirty Two: Shootings months of the year		
Season	Number	Percentage
December – March	110	27.3
April May	67	16.6
June – August	123	30.5
September – November	103	25.5
Total	403	100.0

The shootings showed a 45.5% increase between the spring and the summer seasons. The shootings then showed a modest 16% decrease between the end of the summer and fall seasons. Over the past five years the pattern of shootings have been a reduction in shooting incidents between April and May with a large increase of shootings between June and August and a small decrease in shootings between September and November. Despite colder weather, the number of shootings increased between December and March.

VICTIM / SUSPECT RELATIONSHIPS

Table Thirty Three: Victim / Known Suspect / Race / Sex Correlations 1996			
Suspect	Victim	Number	Percentage of total number of shootings
Black Male	Black Male	67	74.5
Black Male	Black Female	7	7.8
Black Male	Hispanic Male	4	4.4
Black Male	White Male	3	3.3
Black Male	Asian Male	2	2.2
Black Male	Asian Female	1	1.1
Black Female	Black Male	1	1.1
Hispanic Male	Black Male	2	2.2
Hispanic Male	Hispanic Male	1	1.1
White Male	Black Male	1	1.1
White Male	Hispanic Male	1	1.1
Total Known		90	100.0

As shown in Table Thirty Three, in 1996, the majority of known shooters (93.3%) were black males. The majority of victims (78.8%) of the shootings in 1996 were black males. The majority of black males (74.4%) shot the majority of black male victims in 1996.

Table Thirty Four: Victim / Known Suspect / Race / Sex Correlations 1997			
Suspect	Victim	Number	Percentage of total number of shootings
Black Male	Black Male	62	68.1
Black Male	Black Female	10	11.0
Black Male	Hispanic Male	4	4.4
Black Male	White Male	1	1.1
Black Male	White Female	2	2.2
Black Female	Black Male	2	2.2
Hispanic Male	Black Male	1	1.1
Hispanic Male	Black Female	2	2.2
Hispanic Male	Hispanic Male	2	2.2
White Male	Black Male	2	2.2
White Male	White Male	3	3.3
Total Known		91	100.0

The number of shootings in 1997 was similar to those in 1996. As shown in Table Thirty Four, the majority of known shooters (86.8%) were black males. The majority of

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victims (73.6%) of the shootings in 1997 were black males. The majority of black males (68.1%) shot the majority of black male victims in 1997.

Table Thirty Five: Victim / Known Suspect / Race / Sex Correlations 1998			
Suspect	Victim	Number	Percentage of total number of shootings
Black Male	Black Male	51	79.6
Black Male	Black Female	1	1.6
Black Male	Hispanic Male	3	4.7
Black Male	White Female	3	4.7
Black Female	Hispanic Male	1	1.6
Hispanic Male	Black Male	2	3.1
Hispanic Male	White Male	1	1.6
Hispanic Male	Hispanic Male	1	1.6
White Male	White Male	1	1.6
Total Known		64	100.0

As shown in Table Thirty Five, the majority of known shooters (90.6%) were black males. The majority of victims (82.8%) of the shootings in 1998 were black males. The majority of black males (79.6%) shot the majority of black male victims in 1998.

Table Thirty Six: Victim / Known Suspect / Race / Sex Correlations 1999			
Suspect	Victim	Number	Percentage of total number of shootings
Black Male	Black Male	31	66.0
Black Male	Black Female	6	12.8
Black Male	Hispanic Male	4	8.5
Black Male	White Female	1	2.1
Black Male	White Male	1	2.1
Black Female	Black Male	1	2.1
White Male	Black Male	2	4.3
Hispanic Male	Hispanic Male	1	2.1
Total Known		47	100.0

As shown in Table Thirty Six, the majority of known shooters (91.5%) were black males. The majority of victims (72.3%) of the shootings in 1999 were black males. The majority of black males (66%) shot the majority of black male victims in 1999.

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Table Thirty Seven: Victim / Known Suspect / Race / Sex Correlations 2000			
Suspect	Victim	Number	Percentage of total number of shootings
Black Male	Black Male	33	76.7
Black Male	Black Female	2	4.7
Black Male	Hispanic Male	3	7.0
Black Male	White Female	1	2.3
Black Male	White Male	1	2.3
Black Female	Black Male	1	2.3
Hispanic Male	Black Male	1	2.3
White Male	Black Male	1	2.3
Total Known		43	100.0

As shown in Table Thirty Seven, the majority of known shooters (93%) were black males. The majority of victims (83.7%) of the shootings in 2000 were black males. The majority of black males (76.7%) shot the majority of black male victims in 2000.

Table Thirty Eight: Victim / Known Suspect Career Criminal Candidate Correlations 1996 - 2000			
Suspect	Victim	Number	Percentage of Total
CCC	CCC	16	12.9
CCC	Not a CCC	41	33.1
Not a CCC	CCC	23	18.5
Not a CCC	Not a CCC	44	35.5
CCC Status Known		124	100.0

As shown in Table Thirty Eight the plurality of shootings were conducted by non-CCC suspects upon non - CCC victims. An almost an equal percentage of shootings involved CCC - suspects shootings non - CCC victims. The least amount of shootings involved CCC - suspects shooting CCC victims.

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Table Thirty Nine: Victim Age Range / Career Criminal Candidate Correlation 1996 - 2000				
Age Range	Career Criminal Candidate		Total within Age Range	Total Percentage
	Yes	No		
Under 14 years old	0	5	5	1.2
14 – 17 years old	16	39	55	13.6
18 – 21 years old	35	76	111	27.5
22 – 25 years old	33	63	96	23.8
26 – 30 years old	17	35	52	12.9
31 – 35 years old	9	17	26	6.5
36 – 40 years old	4	18	22	5.5
41 – 45 years old	2	8	10	2.5
46 – 50 years old	0	11	11	2.7
Over 50 years old	0	8	8	2.0
Age unknown	4	3	7	1.7
Total	120	283	403	100.0

Table Forty: Known Suspect Age Range / Career Criminal Candidate Correlation 1996 - 2000				
Age Range	Career Criminal Candidate		Total within Age Range	Total Percentage
	Yes	No		
Under 14 years old	0	1	1	.8
14 – 17 years old	7	9	16	12.9
18 – 21 years old	31	17	48	38.7
22 – 25 years old	12	13	25	20.2
26 – 30 years old	3	7	10	8.1
31 – 35 years old	2	6	8	6.5
36 – 40 years old	2	8	10	8.1
46 – 50 years old	0	2	2	1.6
Over 50 years old	0	4	4	3.2
Total	57	104	124	100.0

As shown in Tables Thirty Nine and Forty, between 1996 and 2000 the majority of those who were responsible for the shooting as well as those who were being shot were in the same age range; 14 – 25 years old. Table Forty reflects cases in which the criminal histories of the suspects are known (N= 124). As shown in Table Forty, in each age group (with the exception of youth between 18 – 21 years old), the majority of victims who were shot were not serious criminals as indicated by the designation of Career Criminal Candidate.

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**Table Forty One: Known Suspect / Victim Age Range Correlation
1996 – 2000**

Suspect	Victim	Number of known suspects age grouping correlated to age of victims	Total number / percentage of suspects by age	Percentage of total known suspects
Under 14 years old	Under 14 years old	1	1 / .8	.8
14 – 17 years old	14 – 17 years old	2	16 / 12.9	1.6
14 – 17 years old	18 – 21 years old	4		3.2
14 – 17 years old	22 – 25 years old	7		5.6
14 – 17 years old	26 – 30 years old	1		.8
14 – 17 years old	36 – 40 years old	2		1.6
18 – 21 years old	Under 14 years old	2	48 / 38.7	1.6
18 – 21 years old	14 – 17 years old	6		4.8
18 – 21 years old	18 – 21 years old	12		9.7
18 – 21 years old	22 – 25 years old	14		11.3
18 – 21 years old	26 – 30 years old	5		4.0
18 – 21 years old	31 – 35 years old	1		.8
18 – 21 years old	36 – 40 years old	2		1.6
18 – 21 years old	41 – 45 years old	1		.8
18 – 21 years old	46 – 50 years old	4		3.2
18 – 21 years old	Unknown	1		.8
22 – 25 years old	Under 14 years old	2	25 / 20.2	1.6
22 – 25 years old	14 – 17 years old	6		4.8
22 – 25 years old	18 – 21 years old	3		2.4
22 – 25 years old	22 – 25 years old	6		4.8
22 – 25 years old	26 – 30 years old	5		4.0
22 – 25 years old	31 – 35 years old	2		1.6
22 – 25 years old	36 – 40 years old	1		.8
26 – 30 years old	14 – 17 years old	1	10 / 8.1	.8
26 – 30 years old	18 – 21 years old	3		2.4
26 – 30 years old	22 – 25 years old	1		.8
26 – 30 years old	26 – 30 years old	2		1.6
26 – 30 years old	31 – 35 years old	2		1.6
26 – 30 years old	36 – 40 years old	1		.8

As shown in Table Forty One, there were 48 cases in which the suspects were between 18 – 21 years old. The third column shows the number of shooting suspects compared to the age of the victim. For example, 12 of the suspects who committed shootings shot victims who were 18 – 21 years old. The majority of shootings (72 %) were conducted by youth between 14 and 25 years old. The plurality of shootings (39%) was made up of youth between 18 – 21 years old.

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Table Forty One: Known Suspect / Victim Age Range Correlation 1996 – 2000 (Cont.)				
Suspect	Victim	Number of known suspects age grouping correlated to age of victims	Total number / percentage of suspects by age	Percentage of total known suspects
31 – 35 years old	14 – 17 years old	1	8 / 6.5	.8
31 – 35 years old	18 – 21 years old	3		2.4
31 – 35 years old	22 – 25 years old	2		1.6
31 – 35 years old	31 – 35 years old	1		.8
31 – 35 years old	36 – 40 years old	1		.8
36 – 40 years old	14 – 17 years old	1	10 / 8.1	.8
36 – 40 years old	18 – 21 years old	1		.8
36 – 40 years old	26 – 30 years old	1		.8
36 – 40 years old	31 – 35 years old	2		1.6
36 – 40 years old	36 – 40 years old	4		3.2
36 – 40 years old	46 – 50 years old	1		.8
46 – 50 years old	36 – 40 years old	1	2 / 1.6	.8
46 – 50 years old	46 – 50 years old	1		.8
Over 50 years old	18 – 21 years old	2	4 / 3.2	1.6
Over 50 years old	22 – 25 years old	1		.8
Over 50 years old	41 – 45 years old	1		.8
Total Known		124	124 / 100.0	100.0

Table Forty Two: Number and age of victims shot by Known Suspects 1996 – 2000		
Age	Number	Percentage
Under 14 years old	5	4.0
14 – 17 years old	17	13.7
18 – 21 years old	28	22.6
22 – 25 years old	31	25.0
26 – 30 years old	14	11.3
31 – 35 years old	8	6.5
36 – 40 years old	12	9.7
41 – 45 years old	2	1.6
46 – 50 years old	6	4.8
Unknown	1	.8
Total	124	100.0

As shown in Table Forty Two, the majority of victims (61.3%) were between 14 and 25 years old. As shown in Table Forty One, the majority of suspects (72%) were between 14 and 25 years old.

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Table Forty Three: Known Suspect Motive / Career Criminal Candidate Correlation 1996 – 2000				
Motive for shooting	Career Criminal Candidate		Total number within motive	Total percent
	Yes	No		
Domestic	1	7	8	6.5
Drug Related	10	14	24	19.4
Retaliation	6	5	11	8.9
Accident	1	6	7	5.6
Robbery I	11	5	16	12.9
Argument	10	11	21	16.9
Gambling	1	0	1	.8
Bystander	0	1	1	.8
Can not be determined	10	9	19	15.3
Mental Illness	0	3	3	2.4
Unknown	7	6	13	10.5
Total	57	67	124	100.0

Almost 20% of the shootings were considered drug related at the time of the initial investigation. Almost thirty percent of the shootings were motivated by either robbery or argument. Officials from Wilmington Police have speculated that the robbery cases involved drug dealers who were robbed of their drugs and/or drug money and cases involving arguments reflected drug motivated activity rather than simple arguments that got out of control. Although these explanations are possible, there is no way to confirm such analysis with the current data.

Table Forty Four: Victim Relationship to Suspect		
Relationship Status	Number	Percentage of Total
Relationship Unknown	127	31.5
Acquaintance	55	13.6
Stranger	41	10.2
Friend	4	10
Boyfriend / Girlfriend	6	1.5
Otherwise Unknown	55	13.6
Unknown	114	28.3
Other Family Member	1	.2
	403	100.0

As shown in Table Forty Four, information on the relationship between the victim and suspect of the shootings in the majority (73.4%) of cases is not known.

SUMMARY

The goal of this report was to review the history of shootings in the City of Wilmington over the past five years. This report reviewed various demographic and criminal histories of both the victims and suspects of shootings.

Compared to number of shootings in 1996 there has been a steady decrease in the number of shootings. The City of Wilmington has not seen triple digit shootings since 1997. Shootings decreased by 32% in 1998 compared to 1996. Shootings decreased by 48% and 44% in 1999 and 2000 respectively compared to 1996.

The majority of victims and suspects had prior criminal histories. Over the past five years 71% of the victims had prior criminal arrest histories and 78.2% of the known suspects had prior criminal histories. The majority of suspects (98%) and victims (89%) were males. Black males accounted for 79% of the victims of the shootings and 90% of the known suspects of the shootings. As shown in Table Forty Five, black males with criminal histories accounted for 59.8% of the victims of shootings.

Table Forty Five: Sex / Race of Victim by Criminal History						
Criminal History						
Victims by race and sex	Yes	%	No	%	Total Number	Total Percentage
Black Male	241	59.8	80	19.9	321	79.1
Black Female	18	4.5	15	3.7	33	8.2
Hispanic Male	19	4.7	8	2.0	27	6.7
White Male	5	1.2	5	1.2	10	2.5
White Female	4	1.0	3	.7	7	1.7
Unknown Female	0	0.0	1	.2	1	.2
Unknown Male	0	0.0	1	.2	1	.2
Asian Female	0	0.0	1	.2	1	.2
Asian Male	0	0.0	2	.5	2	.5
Total	287	71.2	116	28.8	403	100

Over the past five years the majority of shooting victims (65%) and known suspects (71.8%) were between the age of 14 and 25 years old. Although the majority of suspects and victims had prior criminal records, the majority of suspects and victims were not serious career criminals. Only 29% of the victims and 46% of the known suspects had

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serious criminal histories as designated by the classification of Career Criminal Candidate. The majority of victims (58%) and known suspects (74.2%) had prior felony arrests. The majority of victims (70%) and known suspects (72.6%) had prior misdemeanor arrests. Only a minority of victims (47%) and more than half of the known suspects (65.3%) had prior drug arrests. Only a minority of victims (31%) and more than half of the known suspects (64.5%) had prior weapons arrests. The majority of known shooting suspects (54%) and shooting victims (70%) were not career criminals. Thus the shootings were being conducted by and perpetrated upon people who were career criminals, but noted above were being committed by those with criminal histories.

The majority of shootings resulted in assault I (57%) charges and only 11% of the shootings resulted in fatalities. Of the shooting incidents in which the weapon of the incident was known (N=190), the most used weapon (97%) was a handgun. Of the cases in which the area of the body shot is known (N=274), a plurality (42%) were shot in their lower extremities (abdominal area, hips, legs, groin and feet). Shoots to the shoulders, arms and hands accounted for 18% of the shots and almost 10% of the shootings were in the back. Thirty percent of the shots were in potentially fatal areas of the body (head, neck, face and chest). The majority of the shootings (55%) occurred Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. The majority of the shootings occurred between 7p.m. through 4 a.m. Based on the motivation of the shootings at the time of the initial police investigation, there was no distinct pattern of motivation for the shootings. Drug related activity accounted for 23% of the total shootings (N=403) between 1996 and 2000 but the majority of those shootings occurred in 1996. Between 1997 and 1999 there was a steady decrease in the number of shootings motivated by drugs with an increase occurring in 2000.

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Of the total shootings (N=403) between 1996 and 2000, black male victims accounted for the majority (79%) of victims and 90% of known of known suspects (by race / sex) (N=335). Table Forty Six shows the total number of shooting cases in which the race and sex of *both* the victims and suspects are known (N=335). As shown in Table Forty Six, the majority of shootings (72.8%) involved black males shooting other black males. Black males, as shown in Table Six, accounted for 79.7% of the total victims shot between 1996 and 2000.

Table Forty Six: Victim and Known Suspect Race and Sex Correlations 1996 - 2000			
Suspect	Victim	Number of shootings in which the race and sex of the victim and suspect were known correlated by known suspects by race / sex	Percentage of total number of in which the race and sex of the victim and suspect is known
Black Male	Black Male	244	72.8
Black Male	Black Female	26	7.8
Black Male	Hispanic Male	18	5.4
Black Male	White Male	6	1.8
Black Male	White Female	7	2.1
Black Male	Asian Female	1	.3
Black Male	Asian Male	2	.6
Black Female	Black Male	5	1.5
Black Female	Hispanic Male	1	.3
Hispanic Male	Black Male	6	1.8
Hispanic Male	Black Female	2	.6
Hispanic Male	Hispanic Male	5	1.5
Hispanic Male	White Male	1	.3
White Male	Black Male	6	1.8
White Male	Hispanic Male	2	.6
White Male	White Male	3	.9
Total Known		335	100.0

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the analysis that the shootings suffered by the City of Wilmington were conducted by black males between the age of 14 and 25 years old who have criminal histories is in line with previous research of the shootings in Wilmington in 1996,² 1997,³ 1998 - 1999⁴ and 1999 – 2000.⁵

One of the goals of Operation Safe Streets (OSS) was to reduce the number of shootings from the record number of shootings in 1996 and 1997. The OSS program is based on the theory that if those on probation remain under close control and are in compliance with curfews, the number of shootings would decrease because previous research showed that the majority of shooting suspects and victims were on probation at the time of their shooting incidents. Additionally, the OSS program was designed to select and maintain intense control on the most serious probationers, those with prior serious felony, misdemeanor, drug or weapons arrests. As shown in this report, the number of shootings has decreased since the implementation of OSS. Analysis specifically assessing the victims and suspects of the shootings compared to those probationers on the OSS lists needs to be conducted in order to assess if OSS had in fact selected offenders with prior violent histories and what correlations can be made to the reduction of the number of shootings.

The data shows that half of the shootings (55.8%) occurred on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. The majority of shootings (73%) occur between the hours of 7 p.m. and 4 p.m. Thus a significant number of shootings could be reduced with a concentrated law enforcement presence between 7 p.m. and 4 a.m. As shown in Table Twenty Three and the

² Scocas, E., Harris, R., Huenke, C. and Cecere, L. (1996). **Wilmington Shootings in 1996: A Comparative Study of Victims and Offenders in Wilmington, Delaware**. Statistical Analysis Center and Delaware Criminal Justice Council: Wilmington, Delaware.

³ Cecere, L., Harris, R., and Querey, M. (1997). **Wilmington Shootings 1997: A Seven Month Comprehensive Study of Victims and Suspects in Wilmington, Delaware**. Delaware Criminal Justice Council: Wilmington, Delaware.

⁴ Cecere, L. (2000). **Wilmington Shooting Report 1998 – 1999 Working Paper: A Cumulative Study of 1998 and 1999 Shooting Incidents**. Delaware Criminal Justice Council: Wilmington, Delaware.

⁵ Garrison, A. *Supra* note 1.

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Time of shooting graph, the number of shootings shows a steady increase between the hours of 7 p.m. and 2 a.m. A focused law enforcement concentration during this period of time could make a significant difference. OSS should consider changing the hours its officers are in the field to match these critical hours (7 a.m. to 4 a.m.). Curfew checks between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. and street sweeps between 2 a.m. and 4 a.m. could be one consideration.

The cold weather does not appear to change the number of shootings. As shown in Tables Thirty One and Thirty Two, more than half of the shootings (53%) between 1996 and 2000 occurred during the fall and winter (September – March), the two coldest periods of the year. During the winter months (December – March), the hours with the highest number of shootings were 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. (N=13), 11 p.m. and 1 a.m. (N=23). During the summer months (June – August), the hours with the highest number of shootings were 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. (N= 14) and 12 a.m. to 2 a.m. (N=41). During the fall months (September – November) the hours with the highest number of shootings were between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. (N=44). The spring months (April – May) did not have a concentration of shootings at any particular time of the day. It does not appear that the cold weather has an impact on the number of shootings. One possible explanation for the 9 p.m. – 2 a.m. shooting pattern is the fact that regardless of the season, its always past sundown. In other words, regardless of the weather, the shootings occur when it's dark outside. Thus, the use of OSS officers during the evening after the dusk should be continued.

APPENDIX ONE:

SIX-YEAR CHART OF SHOOTINGS IN WILMINGTON

Number of shooting victims in the City of Wilmington between calendar years 1996 – 2001*																	
	1 st Quarter				2 nd Quarter				3 rd Quarter				4 th Quarter				Total
Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Apr	May	June	Total	July	Aug	Sept	Total	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total	
1996	6	7	5	18	13	7	5	25	21	6	12	39	4	11	10	25	107
1997	10	6	2	18	9	13	17	39	14	6	5	25	9	8	8	25	107
1998	9	3	6	18	3	9	3	15	3	14	3	20	11	7	2	20	73
1999	4	7	2	13	1	1	6	8	3	4	7	14	9	4	8	21	56
2000	4	3	1	8	7	4	4	15	7	9	6	22	3	5	7	15	60
2001	5	3	5	13	5	4	4	13	9	11	1	21	2	6	6	14	61

* Highlighted area shows the shootings in the City of Wilmington after the implementation of Operation Safe Streets in June 1997.